

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

5           Claims 1-9 (canceled)

          Claim 10 (currently amended): A football kicking training aid  
comprising consisting in combination of:

          a football having two tapered ends and a central section progressively  
enlarged between the two ends, said football having at least one attached patch  
10 attached thereon, said at least one patch or patches covering only one or both  
pointed positioned on either of said tapered ends of said football and not having  
a diameter greater than two inches, said at least one patch or patches having a  
plurality of male or female mating fastener elements thereon, and

          a flexible thimble having a lateral area ~~which user can position adjacent~~  
15 ~~the fingerpad of said user wearing said thimble;~~  
~~a pad on the said lateral area of said thimble, said pad having a plurality of~~  
~~mating fastener elements thereon complementary to said fastener elements on~~  
~~said patch or patches, said mating elements on said thimble worn by a user~~  
~~releasably engaging said mating elements on said patch located at the upper end~~  
20 ~~of said football, whereby said mating of said complementary fastener elements~~  
~~urges a user to properly support said football, for kicking by another player, at~~  
~~said patch only at said upper end by a user's fingerpad within said thimble, and~~  
~~to continue supporting said football until the kicking action has been completed~~  
, said thimble having a pad attached thereon, said pad covering said lateral area  
25 of said thimble, said thimble allowing a user to insert a finger into said thimble  
wherein a fingerpad of said finger is positioned adjacent to said pad, said pad  
having a plurality of mating fastener elements thereon complementary to said  
mating fastener elements on said at least one patch, said mating fastener  
elements on said pad releasably engaging said mating fastener elements on said  
30 at least one patch.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The device as claimed in claim 10 wherein said mating fastener elements disengage from said complementary mating elements upon a player kicking said football.

5 Claim 12 (currently amended): The device as claimed in claim 10 wherein said mating fastener elements on said at least one patch ~~or patches~~ comprise loop elements of a the loop and hook fastener product sold under the trademark VELCRO-RTM.

10 Claim 13 (currently amended): The device as claimed in claim 10 wherein said mating fastener elements on said at least one patch ~~or patches~~ comprise hook elements of a the loop and hook fastener product sold under the trademark VELCRO-RTM.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The device as claimed in claim 10 wherein ~~the material of~~ said thimble is made of natural or synthetic rubber.

15 Claim 15 (currently amended): A football kicking training aid ~~comprising~~ consisting in combination of:

a football having two tapered ends and a central section progressively enlarged between the two ends, said football having at least one attached patch attached thereon, said at least one patch ~~or patches covering only one or both pointed positioned on either one of said tapered ends of said football and not~~  
20 ~~having a diameter greater than two inches~~, said at least one patch ~~or patches~~ having a plurality of male or female mating fastener elements thereon, and  
a flexible glove having a plurality of fingers, ~~said fingers having lateral areas positioned adjacent the fingerpads of a user wearing said glove;~~  
a pad on said lateral area of the index finger of said glove, ~~said pad having a~~  
25 ~~plurality of mating fastener elements thereon complementary to said fastener elements on said patch, said mating elements on said glove worn by a user releasably engaging said mating elements on said patch located at the upper end of said football, whereby said mating of said complementary fastener elements urges a user to properly support said football, for kicking by another player, at~~  
30 ~~said patch at said upper end by a user's fingerpad within said glove, and to continue supporting said football until the kicking action has been completed~~

including a glove index finger, said glove index finger having a lateral area on the palm side of said glove; said lateral area having a pad attached thereon, said pad covering said lateral area of said glove index finger, said glove index finger allowing a user to insert an index finger into said glove index finger wherein a  
5 fingerpad of said index finger is positioned adjacent to said pad, said pad having a plurality of mating fastener elements thereon complementary to said fastener elements on said at least one patch, said mating fastener elements on said pad releasably engaging said mating fastener elements on said at least one patch.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The device as claimed in claim 15  
10 wherein said mating fastener elements disengage from said complementary mating fastener elements upon a player kicking said football.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The device as claimed in claim 15 wherein said mating elements on said at least one patch comprise loop elements of a the loop and hook fastener product sold under the trademark  
15 ~~VELCRO-RTM.~~

Claim 18 (currently amended): The device as claimed in claim 15 wherein said mating elements on said at least one patch comprise hook elements of a the loop and hook fastener product sold under the trademark  
~~VELCRO-RTM.~~

20 Claim 19 (new): A method of training of players in football kicking comprising the steps of:

positioning a flexible thimble on a player's index finger, said thimble having a lateral area and having a pad attached thereon, said pad covering said lateral area, said pad having a plurality of male or female mating fastener  
25 elements thereon,

positioning said pad adjacent a fingerpad of said player's said index finger,

placing on a horizontal playing surface a football having two tapered ends and a central section progressively enlarged between the two ends, and  
30 having at least one patch attached thereon, said at least one patch positioned on either one of said tapered ends of said football, said at least one patch having a

plurality of male or female mating fastener elements thereon complementary to  
said fastener elements on said pad, said mating fastener elements on said pad  
releasably engaging said mating fastener elements on said at least one patch,  
positioning said football upright, with one upper tapered end having at  
5 least one patch and one lower end resting on a horizontal playing surface,  
supporting said football by placing only said pad on said at least one  
patch on said upper tapered end, said mating fastener elements on said pad  
releasably engaging said mating fastener elements on said at least one patch,  
continuing said supporting of said football until another player has  
10 kicked said football.

Claim 20 (new): The device as claimed in claim **19** wherein said mating  
fastener elements disengage from said complementary mating fastener elements  
upon a player kicking said football.

Claim 21 (new): The device as claimed in claim **19** wherein said mating  
15 fastener elements on said at least one patch comprise loop elements of a loop  
and hook fastener product.

Claim 22 (new): The device as claimed in claim **19** wherein said mating  
fastener elements on said at least one patch comprise hook elements of a loop  
and hook fastener product.

20 Claim 23 (new): The device as claimed in claim **19** wherein said thimble  
is made of natural or synthetic rubber.

Claim 24 (new): A method of training of players in football kicking  
comprising the steps of:

positioning a flexible glove on a player's hand, and positioning a glove  
25 index finger on said glove on said player's index finger, said glove having a  
palm side, a back side and a plurality of fingers, including said glove index  
finger, said glove index finger having a lateral area on said palm side of said  
glove, and having a pad attached to said lateral area, said pad covering said  
lateral area of said glove index finger, said glove index finger allowing said pad  
30 to be positioned adjacent a fingerpad of said index finger, said pad having a  
plurality of mating fastener elements thereon;

placing on the ground a football having two tapered ends and a central section progressively enlarged between the two ends, and having at least one patch attached thereon, said at least one patch positioned on either one of said tapered ends of said football, said at least one patch having a plurality of male or  
5 female mating fastener elements thereon complementary to said fastener elements on said pad, said mating fastener elements on said pad releasably engaging said mating fastener elements on said at least one patch;

positioning said football upright, with one upper tapered end having at least one patch and one lower end resting on said playing surface;  
10 supporting said football by placing only said pad on said at least one patch on said upper tapered end, said mating fastener elements on said pad releasably engaging said mating fastener elements on said at least one patch;  
continuing said supporting of said football until another player has kicked said football.

15 Claim 25 (new): The device as claimed in claim **24** wherein said mating fastener elements disengage from said complementary mating fastener elements upon a player kicking said football.

Claim 26 (new): The device as claimed in claim **24** wherein said mating fastener elements on said at least one patch comprise loop elements of a loop  
20 and hook fastener product.

Claim 27 (new): The device as claimed in claim **24** wherein said mating fastener elements on said at least one patch comprise hook elements of a loop and hook fastener product.

Claim 28 (new): The device as claimed in claim **24** wherein said thimble  
25 is made of natural or synthetic rubber.